



*Photograph by Steve Dunwell*

## **Park Street Church**

This church was founded in 1809 in the midst of an exciting chapter in the nation's history. Ten people, including author Oliver Wendell Holmes, gathered in the mansion of William Thurston on Beacon Hill on February 27, 1809, to discuss the organization of a church in this area. British architect Peter Banner designed the brick building in a Georgian style with a 217-foot steeple.

During the War of 1812, gunpowder was stored beneath the church and it was called Brimstone Corner as Brimstone (which is sulfur) was a key component in making gunpowder. It is also the site of the first Sunday school in 1818, and the first prison aid society in 1824.

"America" (My Country 'Tis of Thee), by Samuel Francis Smith, was first sung at the Park Street Church on July 4, 1831. The church was also where William Lloyd Garrison delivered his first major public address against slavery, "Dangers to the Nation," in 1829. In 1849, abolitionist Senator Charles Sumner spoke to the American Peace Society here on "The War System of the Nations." The Park Street Church is still known and respected for its missionary and social work.

# ***Financial Section***

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## **The Black Heritage Trail**

The Freedom Trail meets another famous Boston trail at the Robert Gould Shaw/54th Massachusetts Regiment Memorial on Beacon Hill, where the Black Heritage Trail begins.

The 54th Massachusetts Regiment Volunteer Infantry was the first black regiment to be recruited in the North. Robert Gould Shaw, a young white officer from a prominent Boston family, volunteered for its command.

On July 18, 1863, the 54th Regiment became famous for leading an assault on Fort Wagner. In this hard-fought battle, Shaw and many members of the regiment were killed. Sergeant William Carny of New Bedford was wounded three times in saving the American flag from Confederate capture. As a result of his bravery, he became the first African-American to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. The Memorial sculpture by August Saint-Gaudens was dedicated in 1897 and the story of the Regiment was depicted in the movie "*Glory*."